

Message

From: Weinstein, David (Sanders) [David_Weinstein@sanders.senate.gov]
Sent: 8/16/2013 3:39:58 PM
To: Levine, Carolyn [Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov]; Coates, Patricia [Patricia.Coates@mail.house.gov]; Brown, Rudy [Brown.Rudy@epa.gov]
CC: Berry, Tom (Leahy) [Tom_Berry@leahy.senate.gov]; Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Vermont Congressional Delegation inquiry

Thank you, Carolyn. Tricia very clearly communicated the urgency of the situation, and the seriousness with which our respective bosses are taking this matter. I briefed Senator Sanders yesterday, and, as a member of the authorizing committee of jurisdiction, he may want to talk directly to the Administrator. I'll let you know if he decides to make the call.

Thanks, and best regards.

David Weinstein
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From: Levine, Carolyn [mailto:Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 16, 2013 11:30 AM
To: Coates, Patricia; Brown, Rudy
Cc: Weinstein, David (Sanders); Berry, Tom (Leahy); Grantham, Nancy
Subject: RE: Vermont Congressional Delegation inquiry

Tricia, David and Tom,

Thank you very much for participating together in yesterday's call. We take the concerns of your offices and the residents very seriously, and we have elevated the issue within the Agency.

We will continue to work with the state and we will certainly keep you informed as we move forward. I will work on getting you specific responses to your timing questions at the same time.

Please let us know if you have further questions or are hearing other concerns from the state or residents.

Thank you.

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From: Coates, Patricia <Patricia.Coates@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Friday, August 16, 2013 9:55 AM

To: Levine, Carolyn; Brown, Rudy

Cc: Weinstein, David (Sanders); 'Berry, Tom (Leahy)'

Subject: RE: Vermont Congressional Delegation inquiry

Carolyn and Rudy,

Thanks to you and your respective teams for taking the time for yesterday's call with the Vermont Congressional delegation. Now that we better understand your agency's approach, we have several follow-up questions:

1. You were clear in your mandate to define the scope of contamination before you will decide on any level of assistance. **What timeline can the State expect in determining a new strategy for defining this scope? Would you provide a date certain for this strategy to be developed?**

We ask this question with urgency, as our constituents face potential exposure to hazardous chemicals at this moment, and our State does not have the capacity to carry out complete scope analysis in a timely manner without EPA assistance.

2. In a known subset of properties, current contamination exceeds EPA's actionable levels. Mitigation needs of these sites exceeds the ability and capacity of the State. **Can the EPA begin clean up on these sites immediately?**
3. Once the universe of contamination is determined, will EPA provide assistance to Vermont while legal issues related to the PRP remain unresolved?
4. Does the EPA now consider the Vermont chlorpyrifos contamination to be an "incident of national significance?"

Given the urgency of this situation and the growing and justified alarm among residents potentially impacted, we hope you will respond very soon to these follow-up questions.

Thank you.

Tricia Coates (Congressman Welch), Tom Berry (Senator Leahy) and David Weinstein (Senator Sanders)

Patricia Coates

State Director

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